

# EMIL FUCHS and ROYAL CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MEDALS



Emil Fuchs



Edward VII by Fuchs

IN 1898, EMIL FUCHS CREATED A PORTRAIT MEDAL OF THE KING'S EQUERRY, SIR ARTHUR ELLIS, AS A PRESENT FOR ELLIS' DAUGHTER UPON HER MARRIAGE. SIR ARTHUR HAD ADDITIONAL MEDALS STRUCK AND INSERTED IN SMALL GIFTS, WHICH HE GAVE AS CHRISTMAS PRESENTS TO FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY.



bronze medal of Sir Arthur Ellis in silver box

THE PRINCE OF WALES AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY WERE QUITE TAKEN WITH ELLIS' MEDAL, AND HAD SIMILAR MEDALS MADE FOR THEMSELVES TO USE AS GIFTS.



Silver box with bronze medal

“One afternoon in June, 1899, the Prince, accompanied only by an equerry, came quite unannounced to my studio.

‘Mr Fuchs, I saw your medal of General Sir Arthur Ellis—in fact, I see it every day on the ash tray he gave me for Christmas. I consider it a happy idea and a good likeness. Do you think you could make a similar one for me?’” (Fuchs p. 65)

“Then, asking for a sheet of paper, he wrote two autographs with a date (A. E. September 9, '99) and asked me to choose one for the reverse of the medal. Do you think you could finish the medal by that time?’ he asked.” (Fuchs p. 66)



“The idea of distributing gifts with a small medallion of himself inserted in them pleased [the Prince] greatly. To use it the following Christmas he had about one hundred more of the medals struck with the reverse in another form.” (Fuchs p. 67)





The Queen's Christmas Tree at Windsor, c. 1850

Fuchs was invited to spend Christmas at Sandringham, and found under his tree a number of presents, including a silver ash tray especially engraved for the occasion and set with the medal he had made for the Prince. (Fuchs p. 83)





photo courtesy the Royal Collection Trust

## 1900 Alexandra, Princess of Pity

In a letter to Fuchs from the Princess of Wales' private secretary, Charlotte Knollys, (Dec 14) "The Queen is very anxious to have 12 more big silver and bronze medals of herself as 'Princess of Pity' to give away as Xmas Presents."



silver medal mounted in a paste frame with gilt stand

1899 Princess Beatrice (1857 - 1944)  
(Princess Henry of Battenberg)  
Youngest daughter of Queen Victoria





Maude Ashley  
daughter of Sir Ernest Cassel,  
married Wilfrid Ashley; their daughter  
Edwina married Lord Louis Mountbatten



In 1900, Queen Victoria commissioned Fuchs to create two medals to mark the entry of her reign into the new century.



The first, and smaller of these two, was to be distributed among the household and others close to the Queen



photo courtesy Royal Crown Trust  
silver, gilt silver, bronze, 35mm, 27mm, 23mm



The second, larger (76mm) medal, was struck in very limited quantities



photo courtesy Royal Crown Trust  
Total mintage, in all metals, is probably less than 20.

In the Spring, 1900, Queen Victoria invited Fuchs to Windsor, asking to see some of his work. Among the pieces shown was his medal for the termination of the South African War. She remarked “the sentiment moves us deeply”. Subsequently, she had replicas of it struck for herself, her family and friends. (Fuchs 101 - 103)



An example of this medal was included in Sotheby's Duke & Duchess of Windsor Collection sale in 1997, lot 195, with the note “it has been suggested that this example may have been given to the young Prince by his grandfather”